

Glen Abbot Ltd.

Swine Flu Briefing 09 – 06/05/2009

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Current Situation:

21 countries have officially reported 1490 cases of influenza A (H1N1) infection.

The United Kingdom has reported 27 cases with no deaths.

Mexico has reported 822 laboratory confirmed human cases of infection, including 29 deaths. The United States has reported 403 laboratory confirmed human cases, including two deaths.

The following countries have reported laboratory confirmed cases with no deaths - Austria (1), Canada (140), China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (1), Colombia (1), Costa Rica (1), Denmark (1), El Salvador (2), France (4), Germany (9), Ireland (1), Israel (4), Italy (5), Netherlands (1), New Zealand (6), Portugal (1), Republic of Korea (2), Spain (57), Switzerland (1).

A second person has died in the USA. The woman in Texas, who was in her 30s, is reported to have had other health problems.

An AeroMexico plane has picked a group of Mexicans stranded in China after they were quarantined there. Mexican President Felipe Calderon condemned the measure.

Some of those I have met this week travelling to Shanghai from the USA and the UK have been held on their planes for several hours before being made to go through temperature screening at Shanghai Airport.

All travellers to China must fill in a pandemic questionnaire on arrival and the area around the arrivals hall has officials in protective clothing.

Will this be the pandemic?

Dr. Keiji Fukuda from the WHO said it would be important to watch the Southern Hemisphere, where winter and the flu season are just beginning.

Other pandemics have started with a mild new virus in spring that has come back to cause severe disease later in the year. WHO said it would begin sending 2.4 million treatment courses of Roche AG's and Gilead Sciences Inc's Tamiflu, an antiviral proven effective against the new flu, to 72 nations, including Mexico.

"More people have had mild illness than have had severe illness," Fukuda said. "The reasons for that are not clear. I don't think it reflects differences in treatment."

Fukuda also said it was too soon to say whether a new H1N1 vaccine was needed, but scientists have started to make one. U.S. vaccine experts said it would probably be given as two doses, separately from the seasonal flu vaccine.

What does Phase 5 mean?

I quote this from the WHO Website.

What does pandemic alert phase 5 mean?

According to WHO definitions of phases - the virus has caused sustained community level outbreaks in at least two countries in one WHO region. At phase 5 a pandemic is considered imminent.

What is sustained human to human transmission?

This occurs when three generations are involved - i.e. the virus has passed from person A to person B and then to person C.

What is the difference between a probable case and a confirmed case?

A probable case is one that shows the symptoms of influenza such as cough, fever, headache, chills and fatigue and either tests positive for type A influenza or is considered linked to another probable or confirmed case.

A confirmed case is one which tests positive in a laboratory for the influenza A(H1N1) virus.

At what point does WHO consider a pandemic to have started?

Phase 6, as defined by the WHO pandemic preparedness guidelines. However, during both phase 5 and phase 6, national and local actions to respond to the outbreak shift from preparedness to response at a global level. The goal of recommended actions during these phases is to reduce the impact of the pandemic on society.

Future Briefings

All briefings will be available at our website:

www.glenabbot.co.uk

My thanks to Continuity Shop for the use of their office in Shanghai.

If you would like to contact me by phone my mobile number in China is 0086 15821109366. Use www.telediscount.com to phone that number at a penny a minute.

I will be heading home from China tomorrow so there may not be a briefing or it may be later in the day. If there are any critical changes I will organise for an email to be issued. Normal service (jetlag allowing!) will be resumed on Friday.

Training and Consultancy

We provide specific pandemic training courses both publicly and bespoke to companies. If you are interested please contact me directly or email Geoff Howard at Continuity Shop (goward@continuityshop.com).

We can also help organisation review or create plans so if you need any assistance please contact me via this email or Andrew Sinclair on Andrew.sinclair@glenabbot.co.uk. Our office number is 01738 580580.

Yours sincerely



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